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From: "John Nonomen" <recov2000@hotmail.com>
To: <wvogl@samhsa.gov>
Date: 7/10/04 6:08AM
Subject: Revised Mandatory Guidelines FR DOCKET 04-7984

I write to you as a 65 year-old Australian clergyman, recently retired, who in my mid-teens developed the condition known as paruresis (popularly called "shy bladder"), began to confront it in my mid-30's, and who took twenty years of consistent and challenging effort until I had gained satisfactory recovery from this embarrassing and very intractable problem. I can assure you that if during those many years before achieving recovery I had been required to submit to a drug test involving giving a urine sample while under scrutiny, I would have found the task quite impossible. No amount of fluid loading and waiting would have been of any use, as I have found that for me at least, an over-full bladder becomes more difficult to empty, even in a situation of full privacy.

In the past two or three years I have felt free to divulge this condition to perhaps fifteen people, mostly men whom I knew well, and four of them owned up to also having the condition! (I acknowledge that this percentage is somewhat higher than seems to exist in the population at large). Two of the four were close relatives, indicating a possible genetic predisposition for this condition.

I am writing to urge the responsible authorities to make sure that testing protocols are put into place which take full note of the existence of paruresis and which make true provision for the predicament urine tests produce for people with paruresis. It is grossly unjust that such people, through no fault of their own, are routinely placed in situations of great embarrassment, loss of job opportunities and suspicion of unlawful activities. The apparent reluctance of authorities to provide alternative means of testing for paruretic people as a matter of course, I regard as a blot on the reputation of the United States to care for the rights and welfare of individual citizens.

(Revd) JOHN WALTER REIMER, Sydney, Australia
Full address: 21 Arncliffe Road, EARLWOOD N.S.W. 2206 AUSTRALIA

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